

Coalition Letter – Childhood Immunization Schedule

Date

Re: Budget Provision Regarding Childhood Immunization Schedule

Dear Representative [Name]:

On behalf of the undersigned health care organizations, schools, businesses, and community partners across Kansas, we respectfully urge removal of the budget provision that would direct KDHE in FY 2027 to follow the CDC childhood immunization schedule instead of maintaining alignment with the 2026 immunization schedule endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and previously adopted by Kansas. Stability and consistency in evidence-based public health guidance are critical for families, schools, health systems, and employers.

Earlier this year, Kansas announced it would follow the AAP's independently developed 2026 immunization schedule to ensure recommendations for children were grounded in pediatric expertise, current scientific review, and broad medical consensus. Maintaining that alignment provides clarity and predictability for families and clinicians alike.

The AAP immunization schedule is based on rigorous review of safety data, disease trends, and vaccine effectiveness. The 2026 schedule has been endorsed by 12 national medical and health organizations representing more than one million physicians, pharmacists, and pediatric health professionals, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, National Medical Association, Infectious Diseases Society of America, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and other leading medical specialty organizations. This breadth of endorsement reflects strong cross-disciplinary agreement within the medical community.

AAP continues to recommend routine immunization against RSV, hepatitis A and B, rotavirus, COVID-19, influenza, meningococcal disease, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Hib, pneumococcal disease, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and HPV. These recommendations are carefully structured to protect children at the ages they are most vulnerable.

When children are protected from vaccine-preventable illnesses:

- They miss fewer days of school.
- Schools and childcare centers face fewer outbreaks and disruptions.
- Parents are less likely to miss work to care for sick children.
- Employers experience fewer productivity interruptions.

- Health systems avoid preventable strain and cost.

Recent outbreaks of measles and pertussis in multiple states demonstrate how quickly highly contagious diseases can resurface when immunization coverage declines. Even small gaps in protection can lead to costly public health responses and avoidable disruption.

As of January 2026, a majority of states have indicated they will rely on prior recommendations, state guidance, or independent medical association guidance such as that of the AAP for at least some childhood vaccines. Kansas benefits from clear, stable, and evidence-based health policy that protects children while minimizing disruption to families, schools, and businesses.

We respectfully urge continued alignment with the AAP's evidence-based immunization schedule and removal of the FY 2027 proviso.

Kansas children deserve timely protection.

Kansas families deserve stability.

Kansas communities deserve confidence in science-based policy.

Sincerely,

Dena K. Hubbard, MD, FAAP
Public Policy Committee
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics